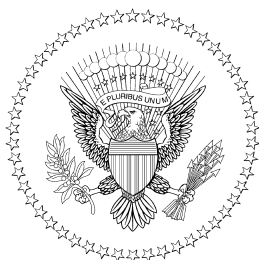


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, April 7, 2003
Volume 39—Number 14
Pages 397–411

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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on April 4, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

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There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, April 4, 2003

Memorandum on the Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

March 28, 2003

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

Pursuant to the requirements set forth under the heading “Policy Toward Burma” in section 570(d) of the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, as contained in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 104–208), a report is required every 6 months following enactment concerning:

- (1) progress toward democratization in Burma;
- (2) progress on improving the quality of life of the Burmese people, including progress on market reforms, living standards, labor standards, use of forced labor in the tourism industry, and environmental quality; and
- (3) progress made in developing a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to bring democracy to and improve human rights practices and the quality of life in Burma, including the development of a dialogue between the State Peace and Development Council and democratic opposition groups in Burma.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit the attached report fulfilling these requirements to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Memorandum on Security Assistance to East Timor

March 28, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003–19

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Security Assistance to East Timor: Certification and Report Pursuant to Section 637(a)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 637(b)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003, I hereby certify that East Timor has established an independent armed forces; and that the provision to East Timor of military assistance in the form of excess defense articles and international military education and training is in the national security interests of the United States, and will promote both human rights in East Timor and the professionalization of the armed forces of East Timor.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this certification, accompanying memorandum of justification, and report on East Timor security assistance to the Congress, and to arrange for the publication of this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 2, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on April 3. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Assistance
to Azerbaijan**

March 28, 2003

Dear _____:

On January 17, 2003, I exercised my authority to extend the waiver of section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, concerning assistance to Azerbaijan. In accordance with paragraph (g)(6) of the heading "Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union" in title II of the Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-115), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration that concerns assistance provided pursuant to this waiver. As required, the report describes the status of:

- All training and assistance provided to the Government of Azerbaijan pursuant to the extension of the waiver of section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act;
- The military balance between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and the impact of U.S. assistance on that balance; and
- Negotiations for a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the impact of U.S. assistance on those negotiations.

My Administration remains fully committed to continue working with the Congress and all concerned parties to bolster peace, prosperity, and freedom in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Chemical
Weapons Convention Inspections**

March 28, 2003

Dear _____:

Enclosed is a report prepared by my Administration covering Chemical Weapons Convention inspections performed within the United States, from October 1, 2000, to September 30, 2001. The report, which includes a classified addendum covering any delays or disruptions to inspections carried on outside the United States, is submitted pursuant to section 309 of the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Orrin G. Hatch, chairman, and Patrick J. Leahy, ranking member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Pat Roberts, chairman, and John D. Rockefeller IV, ranking member, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., chairman, and John Conyers, Jr., ranking member, House Committee on the Judiciary; and Porter J. Goss, chairman, and Jane Harman, ranking member, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

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The President's Radio Address

March 29, 2003

Good morning. This week I welcomed Prime Minister Tony Blair to Camp David, where we discussed the progress being made in the war to disarm Iraq, end the dictatorship, and liberate the Iraqi people. Thanks to our fighting forces, the regime that once terrorized all of Iraq now controls a small portion of that country. American and coalition troops have continued a steady advance and are now less than 50 miles from Baghdad.

In recent days, we have cleared mines from the water and taken control of a key port city, to allow humanitarian aid to begin flowing into the country. We have secured more than 600 oil wells and have begun putting out the few oil-well fires set by the enemy. Our efforts to protect the wealth that belongs to the Iraqi people are paying off.

And we have prevented the dictator from launching missiles from key sites in western Iraq. We are now fighting the most desperate units of the dictator's army. The fighting is

fierce, and we do not know its duration. Yet we know the outcome of this battle: The Iraqi regime will be disarmed and removed from power; Iraq will be free.

In the last week, the world has seen firsthand the cruel nature of a dying regime. In areas still under its control, the regime continues its rule by terror. Prisoners of war have been brutalized and executed. Iraqis who refuse to fight for the regime are being murdered. An Iraqi woman was hanged for waving at coalition troops. Some in the Iraqi military have pretended to surrender, then opened fire on coalition forces that showed them mercy.

Given the nature of this regime, we expect such war crimes, but we will not excuse them. War criminals will be hunted relentlessly and judged severely.

In the last week, the world has also seen the nature of the young men and women who fight on our behalf. They are showing kindness and respect to the Iraqi people. They are going to extraordinary lengths to spare the lives of the innocent. Our forces are delivering food and water to grateful Iraqi citizens in Safwan and Umm Qasr. The contrast could not be greater between the honorable conduct of our liberating force and the criminal acts of the enemy.

Every atrocity has confirmed the justice and urgency of our cause. Against this enemy, we will accept no outcome but complete and final victory. To meet this objective, we must give our armed services the support and resources they require. I have asked Congress for a nearly \$75 billion war-time supplemental appropriations bill. This funding would provide fuel for ships, aircraft, and tanks, supplies for our troops in the theater of operations, and new high-tech munitions to replace the ones we have used in the war. The supplemental would also provide funds to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq and to help protect the American homeland in this time of high alert. I hope the Congress will act quickly to pass this essential measure.

The people who serve in the military are giving their best to this country. We have

the responsibility to give them our full support as they fight for the liberty of an oppressed people, for the security of the United States, and for the peace of the world.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:31 a.m. on March 28 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 28 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Subsidy Budget Request for US Airways, Inc.

March 28, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, I hereby submit a request pursuant to section 101(b) of that Act, for support of a \$1 billion Federal credit instrument for US Airways, Inc.

I hereby designate this subsidy budget authority, currently estimated at \$137.6 million, as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 31.

Remarks at the Port of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

March 31, 2003

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. It is an honor to be here at one of our Nation's busiest ports and one of our country's greatest cities.

Philadelphia and its port shows the hard-working spirit of this country. It speaks to our economic might. Most importantly, Philadelphia talks about a proud history. After all, it was in this place that we first declared our dedication to liberty. We still believe that all men are created equal and have the right to be free. And that is true for Americans, and that is true for men and women in Iraq.

We know that liberty must be defended by every generation. Today, in the Middle East and on other fronts in the war on terror, this generation of Americans is fighting bravely in the cause of freedom. And that includes the good people of the United States Coast Guard.

The men and women of our Coast Guard are showing once again that you are "always ready." You're always ready to serve with courage and excellence. You are always ready to place your country's safety above your own. You shield your fellow Americans from the danger of this world, and America is grateful.

It's my honor to be here with Tom Ridge, the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. People of Pennsylvania trained him well. [*Laughter*] He's doing a fabulous job, and I appreciate his service.

I'm honored to be with the leadership of the United States Coast Guard: Admiral Tom Collins; Vice Admiral Jim Hull. Most importantly, I'm glad to be with the men and women who proudly wear the uniform of the United States Coast Guard.

I appreciate the Members of the United States Congress who have joined us here: Senator Arlen Specter—thank you for coming, Senator Specter—Members of Congress, Robert Brady and Jim Gerlach, Jim Greenwood, Don Sherwood, and Joe Hoeffel. Thank you all very much for being here. I appreciate you coming.

Members from the statehouse, the State government, are here: the Lieutenant Governor Knoll, Attorney General Fisher are with us today. Thank you both for coming. And the Mayor came, Mayor Street. Thank you, I'm honored you're here, Mr. Mayor. I appreciate you coming.

I also want to thank employees of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection for

being here, as well as my Federal employees, Federal workers of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs. I'm honored to have you here. I want to thank you for your dedication and hard work for our Government.

Today I had the honor of meeting John Susanin. John is a volunteer for the American Red Cross. He, like thousands of our fellow citizens all across the country, are willing to dedicate time to help in this cause of making sure our homeland is secure. The Red Cross, American Red Cross, plays a vital role. And I want to thank John for his service to our community.

There's a lot of room for opportunity for our fellow citizens, people who want to do something for America. You can volunteer. You can volunteer to help watch neighborhoods. You can volunteer to help neighborhoods become better prepared. You can volunteer for the Red Cross. You could love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's happening all across America.

And John, thank you for coming. And I also want to thank Manny Greenwald for being here as well. Manny is of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. I was briefed today by Admiral Hull, who told me there's auxiliarists all across the country who are helping the Coast Guard achieve their vital mission. I want to thank all the Mannys across America who are helping our Coast Guard do its job. Manny's only 92 years old—[laughter]—and he's still working hard.

This is a time of great consequence for our country. Right now, men and women from every part of America, supported by a strong coalition, are fighting to disarm a dangerous regime and to liberate an oppressed people.

It has been 11 days since the major ground war began. In this short time, our troops have performed brilliantly, with skill and with bravery. They make us proud. In 11 days, coalition forces have taken control of most of western and southern Iraq. In 11 days, we've seized key bridges, opened a northern front, achieved—nearly achieved complete air superiority, and are delivering tons of humanitarian aid. By quick and decisive action, our troops are preventing Saddam Hussein from destroying the Iraqi people's oilfields. Our forces moved into Iraqi missile launch

areas that threatened neighboring countries. Many dangers lie ahead, but day by day, we are moving closer to Baghdad. Day by day, we are moving closer to victory.

Our victory will mean the end of a tyrant who rules by fear and torture. Our victory will remove a sponsor of terror armed with weapons of terror. Our victory will uphold the just demands of the United Nations and the civilized world. And when victory comes, it will be shared by the long-suffering people of Iraq, who deserve freedom and dignity.

The dictator's regime has ruled by fear and continues to use fear as a tool of domination to the end. Many Iraqis have been ordered to fight or die by Saddam's death squads. Others are pressed into service by threats against their children. Iraqi civilians attempting to flee to liberated areas have been shot and shelled from behind by Saddam's thugs. Schools and hospitals have been used to store military equipment. They serve as bases for military operations. Iraqis who show friendship toward coalition troops are murdered in cold blood by the regime's enforcers.

The people of Iraq have lived in this nightmare world for more than two decades. It is understandable that fear and distrust run deep. Yet, here in the city where America itself gained freedom, I give this pledge to the citizens of Iraq: We're coming with a mighty force to end the reign of your oppressors. We are coming to bring you food and medicine and a better life. And we are coming, and we will not stop. We will not relent until your country is free.

In Operation Iraqi Freedom, our Coast Guard is playing a critical role. We have sent many Coast Guard cutters and over a thousand of our finest active duty and reserve members to the Persian Gulf and surrounding waters. Coast Guard personnel are protecting key ports and Iraqi oil platforms. They're detaining prisoners of war. Members of the Coast Guard are performing their duties with bravery and excellence, and America appreciates your fine service.

In this time of war, the Coast Guard's service in America's waters is more important than ever. We still count on you to rescue fishermen and others at sea. We still count on you to enforce maritime law and to fight

drug smuggling. Yet now, as part of the Department of Homeland Security, you have taken on a new and vital mission, a mission as important as any in your 213-year history, the mission of defending our country against terrorist attack. In the finest traditions of the Coast Guard, you are rising to the challenge.

This is a vital task and a massive undertaking. More than 90 percent of our combat materials and our trade moves by sea. At this port alone, thousands of cargo containers arrive every day. Your job of protecting our Nation's port is essential to our economic security and to our national security.

The appropriations bill I signed into law earlier this year increased Coast Guard funding to over \$6 billion, the highest level ever. We're directing new resources to pay for better intelligence capabilities, new technologies to monitor and safeguard our ports, a more modern fleet of Coast Guard cutters and aircraft, and up to 700 new smaller, faster response boats that will further protect America's shorelines. By giving the Coast Guard new resources, we are supporting the men and women who defend us all.

All Americans understand that we face a continuing threat of terrorism. We know that our enemies are desperate; we know that they're dangerous. The dying regime in Iraq may try to bring terror to our shores. Other parts of the global terror network may view this as a moment to strike, thinking that we're distracted. They're wrong.

We are meeting threats and acting to prevent dangers. The United States and allied troops are shattering the Al Qaida network. We're hunting them down, one at a time. We're finding them. We're interrogating them, and we're bringing them to justice. We will end the Iraqi regime, an ally of terrorist groups and a producer of weapons of mass destruction.

And here at home, we're acting. Shortly before we began the liberation of Iraq, we launched Operation Liberty Shield to implement additional measures to defend the American homeland against terrorist attacks.

This nationwide effort is focused on five specific areas. First, we are taking even greater security measures at our borders and ports. We have relocated hundreds of security personnel on our borders. We've added

additional reconnaissance aircraft patrols at our borders. And the Coast Guard is monitoring ports for suspicious activity. This Nation is determined. Friends and immigrants will always be welcome in this land. Yet we will use all our power to keep out the terrorists and the criminals so they can't hurt our citizens.

Second, we are strengthening protections throughout our national transportation system. We're enforcing temporary flight restrictions over some of our major cities. We've stepped up surveillance of hazardous material shipments within our country and taken measures to keep them away from places where large numbers of people gather. This Nation is determined. We will do all in our power to make sure our skies and rails and roads are safe from terror.

Third, we've increased surveillance of suspected terrorists. Certain individuals with ties to Iraqi intelligence services have been ordered out of this country. We're interviewing Iraqi-born individuals on a voluntary basis for two reasons, to gain information on possible terrorist plans and to make sure they've not experienced discrimination or hate crimes. This Nation is determined. Iraqi Americans will be protected, and enemy agents will be stopped.

Fourth, under Operation Liberty Shield, we are guarding our Nation's most important infrastructure with greater vigilance. Under the direction of our Governors, thousands of National Guardsmen and State police officers are protecting chemical facilities and nuclear power sites, key electrical grids, and other potential targets. This country is determined. We will keep up our guard and do all we can to protect our fellow citizens.

And finally, we're strengthening the preparedness of our public health system. The Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services have increased field inspections of livestock and crops. Public health officials have increased medical surveillance in major cities. This Nation is determined. We will stand watch against the dangers of the new era.

After our Nation was attacked on September the 11th, 2001, America made a decision: We will not wait for our enemies to strike before we act against them. We're not

going to permit terrorists and terror states to plot and plan and grow in strength while we do nothing.

The actions we're taking in Operation Liberty Shield are making this Nation more secure. And the actions we're taking abroad against a terror network and against the regime in Iraq are removing a grave danger to all free nations. In every case, by acting today, we are saving countless lives in the future.

America has many advantages in this war on terror. We have resolute citizens. We're vigilant and know that freedom must be defended. We have a just cause to guide us, and we have the strength and character of the men and women who serve our country.

You in the Coast Guard take rightful pride in the uniform you wear and the mission you have accepted. You and all who serve in our military are ready for any challenge. And by your skill and by your courage, we will prevail.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. at the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Thomas H. Collins, commandant, and Vice Adm. James D. Hull, Atlantic Area commander, U.S. Coast Guard; Lt. Gov. Catherine Baker Knoll and State Attorney General D. Michael Fisher of Pennsylvania; Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7658—National Donate Life Month, 2003

April 1, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Advances in medical research and technology are helping our citizens to live longer and better lives. An important aspect of these improvements is transplant technology. Today, up to 50 lives can be saved or enhanced by just one organ and tissue donor. During National Donate Life Month, we honor living and deceased donors and their

families across our Nation who have renewed the lives of others, and we call upon more Americans to follow their example.

Through our Nation's organ and tissue donor programs, thousands of Americans have given the gift of life. In 2002, 24,851 organ transplants and 32,744 corneal transplants were performed in the United States. In addition, the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry facilitated an average of 173 transplants each month. These donors' spirit of giving reflects the compassion of our great Nation.

Unfortunately, the current rate of donation is inadequate to meet the growing needs of our fellow Americans. Nearly 81,000 of our citizens are on the national organ transplant waiting list. Each day, an average of 68 of these individuals receive an organ transplant, yet another 17 on the waiting list die. As a Nation, we must strive to meet the needs of all Americans awaiting such donations.

Through the "Gift of Life Donation Initiative," my Administration is working to educate our Nation about the importance of becoming a donor. During National Donate Life Month, more than 6,000 partners, including Federal agencies, State governments, private industries, unions, fraternal organizations, and associations have committed to promoting organ and tissue donation awareness. As a result, millions of Americans will learn about the many ways they can help those in need and save lives.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as National Donate Life Month. I call upon our citizens to sign an organ and tissue donor card and to be screened for bone marrow donation. I also urge healthcare professionals, volunteers, educators, government agencies, and private organizations to help raise awareness of the important need for organ and tissue donors in communities throughout our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this First day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 3, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 4.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on
Implementation of the Inter-
American Convention Against
Corruption**

April 1, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Pursuant to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption adopted by the Senate on July 27, 2000, I submit the enclosed report, prepared by my Administration, on implementation of the Convention.

This third report to the Congress indicates that 28 of the 34 members of the Organization of American States have formally ratified the Convention (Brazil and Suriname ratified the Convention in 2002) and that 27 have adopted the evaluation mechanism established by the Organization of American States to oversee implementation.

The United States Government continues to reinforce the implementation and enforcement of the Convention in the hemisphere through numerous initiatives and programs that are described in the report. Moreover, since the last report, my Administration has moved forward with our proposed Millennium Challenge Account, which is intended to link U.S. foreign development assistance to, among other factors, the recipient's commitments to good governance and anticorruption efforts. The Convention recognizes that the problem of corruption is a major obstacle to development in the Americas. As such, it has energized the work of the United States and its hemispheric partners to find common solutions to common anticorruption challenges.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that we continue to combat corruption in our hemisphere and across the globe.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 2.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Chemical
Weapons Convention Compliance**

April 2, 2003

Dear _____:

Enclosed is a report prepared by my Administration covering Chemical Weapons Convention compliance. This report is prepared pursuant to Condition 10(C) of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The report is provided in both a classified and unclassified version.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations.

**Remarks to the Community at Camp
Lejeune, North Carolina**

April 3, 2003

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all so very much for that warm welcome. It's such an honor to be here—especially pleased to be traveling today with a great First Lady, Laura Bush. We really appreciate your welcome, and we're proud to be with the marines and sailors and families of Camp Lejeune. There's no finer sight—no finer sight—than to see 12,000

United States marines and corpsmen, unless you happen to be a member of the Iraqi Republican Guard.

For more than 60 years, marines have gone forth from Camp Lejeune to fight our country's battles. Now America has entered a fierce struggle to protect the world from a grave danger and to bring freedom to an oppressed people. As the forces of our coalition advance, we learn more about the atrocities of the Iraqi regime and the deep fear that Saddam Hussein has instilled in the Iraqi people. Yet, no scheme of this enemy, no crime of a dying regime, will divert us from our mission. We will not stop until Iraq is free.

Audience member. We love you, President Bush!

The President. When freedom needs defending, America turns to our military. And as they do their job, our men and women in uniform count on their families, like you all here today. This is a time of hardship for many military families. Some of you have been separated from your loved ones for quite a while because of long deployments. All of America is grateful for your sacrifice, and Laura and I are here to thank each one of you.

We're here to thank the Marines. I also want to thank the men and women of the Marine Forces Reserve who are serving here and abroad. Hundreds of reserve units across America have been activated in this time of war, and our country thanks these fine citizens and their employers for putting duty first.

I want to thank Major General David Mize for his hospitality and his leadership. I want to thank Major General John Castellaw, commanding general of the 2d Marine Expeditionary Force, for his leadership and strength.

I appreciate so very much Members of the North Carolina congressional delegation who traveled with Laura and me today. Senators Edwards and Dole, from the great State of North Carolina, thank you for coming. I appreciate Members of the United States House of Representatives, Congressmen Ballance, Jones, and McIntyre, for traveling with us. These five are five Members of the

Congress are strong supporters of the marines and the United States military.

I met the mayor, and I want to thank Madam Mayor and members of the county commission for being so supportive of the families and the personnel here at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. I want to thank very much those veterans who are here, and retired military members. I want to thank Lone Star. We kind of like that name. [Laughter]

I very much want to say a little something about a person that Laura and I met at Marine One when it landed, Laura Kay Brett.

Audience member. Yeah!

The President. You may know Laura—somebody knows Laura Kay out there. [Laughter] But you need to know her story. You see, Laura Kay is director of Volunteer Services at the YMCA Camp Lejeune. She represents hundreds, thousands of people who volunteer to make somebody's life better. She runs a mom-to-mom program to help people who may need help. Laura Kay represents the best of America, somebody who is willing to love a neighbor just like she'd like to be loved herself.

I want to thank Laura Kay. I want to thank the thousands of you who are here who understand we can save somebody's life by showing them love. We can help somebody who hurts by hugging a neighbor in need.

All around Camp Lejeune are monuments to the heroic achievements of the United States Marines. In the 14 days since the major ground war began, the Marine Corps has added new achievements to its great story.

On the first day of the campaign, marine units were ordered to secure 600 Iraqi oil wells and prevent environmental disaster. And that mission was accomplished. U.S. marines and our Royal Marine allies were sent in to take the Al Faw Peninsula and clear a path for humanitarian aid, and that job was done. In the tough fighting at Al Nasiriyah, marines continue to push back the enemy and are showing the unrelenting courage worthy of the name Task Force Tarawa. Two nights ago, marines and special operations forces set out on a daring rescue mission, and thanks to their skill and courage, a brave young soldier is now free.

These missions are difficult and they are dangerous, but no one becomes a marine because it's easy. Now our coalition moves forward. Marines are in the thick of the battle. And what we have begun, we will finish.

The United States and our allies pledged to act if the dictator did not disarm. The regime in Iraq is now learning that we keep our word. By our actions, we serve a great and just cause: We will remove weapons of mass destruction from the hands of mass murderers. Free nations will not sit and wait, leaving enemies free to plot another September the 11th, this time perhaps with chemical or biological or nuclear terror. And by defending our own security, we are freeing the people of Iraq from one of the cruelest regimes on Earth.

At this hour, coalition forces are clearing southern cities and towns of the dictator's death squads and enforcers. Our special forces and Army paratroopers, working with Kurdish militia, have opened a northern front against the enemy. Army and Marine divisions are engaging the enemy and advancing to the outskirts of Baghdad.

From the skies above, coalition aircraft and cruise missiles are removing hundreds of military targets from Iraq. A vise is closing, and the days of a brutal regime are coming to an end.

Some servants of the regime have chosen to fill their final days with acts of cowardice and murder. In combat, Saddam's thugs shield themselves with women and children. They have killed Iraqi citizens who welcome coalition troops. They force other Iraqis into battle by threatening to torture or kill their families. They've executed prisoners of war. They've waged attacks under the white flag of truce. They concealed combat forces in civilian neighborhoods and schools and hospitals and mosques.

In this war, the Iraqi regime is doing—is terrorizing its own citizens, doing everything possible to maximize Iraqi civilian casualties, and then to exploit the deaths they've caused for propaganda. These are war criminals, and they will be treated like war criminals.

In stark contrast, the citizens of Iraq are coming to know what kind of people we have sent to liberate them. American forces and

our allies are treating innocent civilians with kindness and showing proper respect to soldiers who surrender. Many Americans have seen the picture of Marine Lance Corporal Marcco Ware carrying a wounded Iraqi soldier on his shoulders to safety for medical treatment. That's the picture of the strength and goodness of the U.S. Marines. That is a picture of America. People in the United States are proud of the honorable conduct of our military, and I'm proud to lead such brave and decent Americans.

I'm also proud that coalition victories are bringing food and water and medicine to the Iraqi people. Our coalition partners have constructed a pipeline to bring clean water to Umm Qasr. We're delivering emergency rations to the hungry. Right now, ships carrying enough American grain to feed millions are bound for Iraq. We're bringing aid, and we're bringing something more. We're bringing hope.

A man in one Iraqi village said this to one of our soldiers: "I want my freedom. I don't want food or water. I just want my freedom." America hears that man. We hear all Iraqis who yearn for liberty. And the people of Iraq have my pledge: Our fighting forces will press on until your entire country is free.

The Iraqi people deserve to live in peace under leaders they have chosen. They deserve a government that respects the rights of every citizen and ethnic group. They deserve a country that is united, that's independent, and that is released from years of sanctions and sorrow. Our coalition has one goal for the future of Iraq, to return that great country to its own people.

Building a free and prosperous Iraq after the regime is gone will require—will be the work of the Iraqi people for years to come. And they will have our help. Today the goal is to remove the Iraqi regime and to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, and that is the task of the United States military and our coalition.

All who serve in this mission can know this: Your fellow citizens are behind you, and our Government will give you every tool you need for victory.

People of this country take pride in your victories, and we share in your losses. Camp Lejeune has lost some good marines. Every

person who dies in the line of duty leaves a family that lives in grief. Every marine who dies in the line of duty leaves comrades who mourn their loss.

There is a tradition in the corps that no one who falls will be left behind on the battlefield. Our country has a tradition as well. No one who falls will be forgotten by this grateful Nation. We honor their service to America, and we pray their families will receive God's comfort and God's grace.

These are sacrifices in a high calling, the defense of our Nation and the peace of the world. Overcoming evil is the noblest cause and the hardest work. And the liberation of millions is the fulfillment of America's founding promise. The objectives we've set in this war are worthy of America, worthy of all the acts of heroism and generosity that have come before.

Once again, we are applying the power of our country to ensure our security and to serve the cause of justice. And we will prevail.

Our armed services have performed brilliantly in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Moving a massive force over 200 miles of enemy territory in a matter of days is a superb achievement. Yet there is work ahead for our coalition, for the American Armed Forces, and for the United States Marines. Having traveled hundreds of miles, we will now go the last 200 yards. The course is set. We're on the advance. Our destination is Baghdad, and we will accept nothing less than complete and final victory.

May God bless our country and all who defend her. *Semper fi.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. at W.P.T. Hill Field. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. David Mize, USMC, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; Maj. Gen. John Castellaw, USMC, commanding general, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing; Mayor Elsie P. Smith of Jacksonville, NC; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Giving Notification of Intent To Transfer Emergency Response Funds to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks

April 3, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In order to continue the investigation into the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF).

At this time, \$9 million of ERF funds will be transferred to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States to ensure that it has the necessary resources to investigate fully the terrible tragedy of September 11, 2001. My Administration is strongly committed to the purpose and mission of the Commission and will continue to cooperate with the Commission in accordance with applicable law to help ensure that it succeeds. I expect that the Commission's final report will contain important recommendations.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Statement on Congressional Action on the Supplemental Budget Request To Support Military and Humanitarian Operations in Iraq and To Ensure Domestic Safety

April 4, 2003

I commend the Congress for responding with bipartisan cooperation and speed to my request for supplemental war funding. The House and Senate took strong and decisive action to provide our troops with the resources necessary to fight and win the war in Iraq, to respond to increased homeland

security needs, and to strengthen the capabilities of our allies. As the bills go to conference, we will seek to combine the best elements of the House and Senate bills to help ensure that the final legislation includes both the funding and flexibility necessary to respond quickly and effectively to any changing needs at home and abroad.

Executive Order 13295—Revised List of Quarantinable Communicable Diseases

April 4, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 361(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264(b)), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Based upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the “Secretary”), in consultation with the Surgeon General, and for the purpose of specifying certain communicable diseases for regulations providing for the apprehension, detention, or conditional release of individuals to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of suspected communicable diseases, the following communicable diseases are hereby specified pursuant to section 361(b) of the Public Health Service Act:

- (a) Cholera; Diphtheria; infectious Tuberculosis; Plague; Smallpox; Yellow Fever; and Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (Lassa, Marburg, Ebola, Crimean-Congo, South American, and others not yet isolated or named).
- (b) Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which is a disease associated with fever and signs and symptoms of pneumonia or other respiratory illness, is transmitted from person to person predominantly by the aerosolized or droplet route, and, if spread in the population, would have severe public health consequences.

Sec. 2. The Secretary, in the Secretary’s discretion, shall determine whether a particular condition constitutes a communicable disease of the type specified in section 1 of this order.

Sec. 3. The functions of the President under sections 362 and 364(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 265 and 267(a)) are assigned to the Secretary.

Sec. 4. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit enforceable at law or equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

Sec. 5. Executive Order 12452 of December 22, 1983, is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 4, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 8, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing at Camp David, MD.

March 30

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

March 31

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where he had a briefing on homeland security with Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge and U.S. Coast Guard officials at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office at the Port of Philadelphia. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to designate Nils J. Diaz as Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Terri Lacy as a member of the Federal Salary Council (Labor Relations and Pay Policy) and upon appointment, to designate her as Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven A. Browning to be Ambassador to Malawi.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald Schlicher to be Ambassador to Tunisia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen M. Young to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Josette Sheeran Shiner to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

The President announced his intention to nominate Teresa M. Ressel to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury (Management), to designate her as Acting Chief Financial Officer, and upon confirmation, to designate her as Chief Financial Officer.

April 1

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to discuss the rescue of American POW Jessica D. Lynch by U.S. military forces in Iraq.

During the day, the President met with Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa to discuss the President's jobs-and-growth package.

The President announced his intention to nominate Herbert S. Garten and Thomas R. Meites to be members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles E. Horner, Stephen D. Krasner, and Daniel Pipes to be members of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace.

April 2

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the

National Security Council. Later, he met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Also in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah of Kuwait, and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with economists to discuss the state of the economy and the President's jobs-and-growth package.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay to the White House on April 23.

The President announced his intention to nominate James J. Jochum to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce (Import Administration).

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter D. Keisler to be Assistant Attorney General (Civil Division), Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert D. McCallum to be Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to designate Gen. Mark V. Rosenker, AFRC, as Vice Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mack I. Whittle as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences: James Broaddus, Lane Carson, Paul Pate, and Jose Teran.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science: Denice D. Denton, Anne O. Krueger, M. Susan Smith, Richard F. Thompson, and Neil deGrasse Tyson.

April 3

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He and Mrs. Bush

then traveled to Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with U.S. Marine Corps personnel in the mess hall at Camp Lejeune.

In the afternoon, in a chapel at Camp Lejeune, the President and Mrs. Bush met with family members of U.S. marines killed in Iraq. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia to the White House on May 2.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore to the White House on May 6.

April 4

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea to discuss humanitarian operations in Iraq and the situation in North Korea. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. He then had separate meetings with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with Iraqi Americans and Iraqi exiles living in the U.S. to discuss the situation in Iraq.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Rudolf Schuster of the Slovak Republic to the White House on April 9.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Abel Pacheco of Costa Rica, President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador, President Alfonso Portillo Cabrera of Guatemala, President Ricardo Maduro of Honduras, and President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua to the White House on April 10.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 2

Steven A. Browning,
of Texas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malawi.

Elizabeth Courtney,
of Louisiana, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2010 (reappointment).

Herbert S. Garten,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2005, vice Douglas S. Eakley, term expired.

Charles Edward Horner,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2007, vice Stephen Hadley, term expired.

Stephen D. Krasner,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2005, vice Shibley Telhami.

John F. Maisto,
of Pennsylvania, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Roger Francisco Noriega.

Thomas R. Meites,
of Illinois, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation

for a term expiring July 13, 2004, vice LaVeeda Morgan Battle, term expired.

William Emil Moschella,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Daniel J. Bryant.

Daniel Pipes,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2005, vice Zalmay Khalizad, term expired.

Teresa M. Ressel,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Edward Kingman, Jr.

Stephen M. Young,
of New Hampshire, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kyrgyz Republic.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 31

Fact sheet: Securing Our Homeland

Released April 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Senate confirmation of Tim Tymkovich as a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit

Released April 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Uruguayan President Jorge Batlle To Visit Washington

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas

Released April 3

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia To Visit Washington

Released April 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on plans for postwar Iraq

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Rudolf Schuster of the Slovak Republic To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Presidents of Central America To Visit Washington

Fact sheet: Past Repression and Atrocities by Saddam Hussein's Regime

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.